

September 24, 2026

ITEM 226-2008-R0926

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus of History upon Dr. Mark Fiege;
Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Professor Mark Fiege from the faculty in the Department of History & Philosophy at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to the University, the Montana University System and the people of the state of Montana.

EXPLANATION

Professor Fiege's reputation as a superb and influential historian is unquestionable. He is the author of two seminal books and co-author of two edited volumes, the latter two of which were published during his time at MSU. Since 2016, he also has authored nine additional publications that have appeared in several top academic journals, and many more for a wider public audience. Professor Fiege is widely acknowledged as one of the most preeminent scholars in the fields of environmental history, history of national parks, and history of the American West.

Professor Fiege has also been a beloved teacher, and few professors have inspired a more passionate and talented following of students. During his time at MSU, Professor Fiege taught twelve different courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels, several of which he created for the department. Of particular note are Professor Fiege's courses, seminars, and colloquia in the History graduate curriculum, which have provided vital scholarly foundations for many masters and doctoral students for a decade. During his career, Professor Fiege worked with almost 60 graduate students, more than half of these during his time at MSU. Of his roughly 35 graduate students, three have since published books, and two of his doctoral students have secured tenure track teaching positions. Many others have gone to successful careers in public service, business, NGOs, and other institutions. In sum, Professor Fiege's presence at MSU helped to establish the graduate program in history as one of the most successful programs of its kind in the Intermountain West, and his outsized influence will endure through is many successful students.

Finally, Professor Fiege was both the first permanent Wallace Stegner Professor and the first endowed chair of any sort within the humanities at Montana State. To honor him with the rank of emeritus not only acknowledges his own significant accomplishments in research, teaching, and service, but also highlights these important achievements for MSU and the people of Montana.

For these and other contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. Mark Fiege the rank of Professor Emeritus of History at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None